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FILED: June 26, 2003) Examiner: Kimberly T Wood
TITLE: STAND WITH FOLDABLE LEG UNITS

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450
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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A stand adapted to stand on a supporting surface, comprising:

a holding frame adapted to support an article thereon; and a plurality of spaced apart leg units, each of which includes an upper leg and a lower leg, said upper leg extending downwardly from said holding frame and having an upper end connected securely to said holding frame and a lower end opposite to said upper end, said upper legs of said leg units cooperatively defining a storage space below said holding frame, said lower leg having opposite upper and lower ends, said upper end of said lower leg being pivoted to said upper leg at a position adjacent to said lower end of said upper leg so as to be rotatable relative to said upper leg between a folded position, in which said lower legs of said leg units are disposed in said storage space and in which said lower ends of said upper legs are adapted to be seated on the supporting surface, and an extended position, in which said lower ends of said lower legs are disposed at an elevation below said lower ends of said upper legs and in which said lower ends of said lower legs are adapted to be seated on the supporting surface;

wherein said upper leg of each of said leg units has a pivot portion that protrudes laterally therefrom into said storage space, that is disposed adjacent to said lower end of said upper leg, and that is parallel to said holding frame, an upper abutting portion that extends downwardly and that is angled away from said pivot portion toward said lower end of said upper leg, said lower leg of each of said leg units having a lower abutting portion adjacent to said upper end of said lower leg, each of said leg units further including a pivot shaft extending transversely through said pivot portion of a respective one of said upper legs and said upper end of a respective one of said lower legs to permit turning of said lower legs about said pivot shafts between said folded and extended positions, said lower abutting portions of said lower legs respectively abutting against said upper abutting portions of said upper legs when said lower legs are disposed in said extended position;

wherein each of said upper leg of each of said leg units includes first and second parts and a third part sandwiched between said first and second parts, each of said first, second and third parts having opposite upper and lower ends, said upper ends of said first and second parts cooperatively defining said upper end of said upper leg, said lower ends of said first, second and third parts cooperatively defining said lower end of said upper leg, said upper end of said third part defining said pivot portion of said upper leg, said lower leg of each of said leg units including first and second parts, each of which has opposite upper and lower ends, said upper ends of said first and second parts of said lower leg cooperatively defining said upper end of said lower leg, said lower ends of said first and second parts of said lower leg cooperatively defining said lower end of said lower leg, said pivot portion of said upper leg of each of said leg units being

sandwiched between said upper ends of said first and second parts of
the respective one of said lower legs of said leg units.

2. (cancelled)
3. (original) The stand as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a reinforcing frame disposed below said holding frame and connected securely to said pivot portions of said upper legs so as to enhance rigidity and stability of said upper legs.
4. (original) The stand as defined in Claim 1, wherein said holding frame is annular in shape and has a rectangular cross-section.
5. (cancelled)
6. (currently amended) The stand as defined in ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 1, wherein said holding frame is annular in shape, has a rectangular cross-section, and includes an annular inner face, an annular outer face opposite to said annular inner face and an annular bottom face interconnecting said inner and outer faces, each of said leg units further including an L-shaped mounting bracket having a horizontal portion that interconnects said upper ends of said first and second parts of a respective one of said upper legs of said leg units and said annular bottom face of said annular holding frame, and a vertical portion that extends upward from said horizontal portion and that is secured to said annular inner face of said annular holding frame.